

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF
WASTEWATER SYSTEM OPERATORS
MINUTES
February 17, 2009**

The following are minutes of the Kentucky Board of Certification of Wastewater System Operators held February 17, 2009 at the Division of Compliance Assistance, 300 Fair Oaks Lane, Kentucky.

Board Members Present

Dennis Gumbert, Chairman
Dave Pedigo, Vice Chairman
Randy Bingham
Dr. Andrew Ernest
Gary Epperson
Larry Grubbs
Aaron Keatley

Others

Lisa Butler, Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA)
Julia Kays, DCA
Steve Capps, Ky. Rural Water
Tony Glore, MSD, Louisville
David Roth, MSD, Louisville
Jerry Ferguson, MSD, Louisville

I. Call to order

Dennis Gumbert called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

II. Guest Comments

All guests were introduced and welcomed to the meeting

Jerry Ferguson, Louisville and Jefferson County Municipal Sewer District said that the topics the board is reviewing today are very important to MSD because, as other sewer systems, they have a very unique talent and skill in terms of resources. The training, the implications of training and compliance are critical because their work force is aging, he said. New people are coming in, so when the agency makes changes, because of regulatory requirements that have been stepped up and when there are significant changes, it is very important to them. He commented that the change to combine the process and non-process training hours and to not increase the amount of hours required is a huge advantage to their operations and doesn't decrease the capabilities of the operators. Mr. Ferguson said he would like to offer compliments to the agency for doing this. Mr. Ferguson said that MSD has resources that can be made available for training and they want to develop a closer relationship with the board and the department. He said they appreciate the board's work. He also stated that the things being considered today are very meaningful to MSD and to keep up going in the current direction. Dave Pedigo asked how many operators MSD had. Tony Glore said they had just over 80.

Randy Bingham asked for their thoughts on the treatment and collection system operators. Mr. Roth said, in reality to operations people, the collection system is gravity so only the moving parts are managed by operators. Anything that keeps the water moving is done by an operator. David also said their operators have a combination of duties and it makes sense that they should be counted the same. Jerry said the central driving force is basically the same and that the collection and treatment certification make a lot of sense

David Roth asked if the program was using the Sacramento manual as the guidance document for the collection program. Julia Kays said the program hasn't developed collection system certification training material, but the exam questions have been developed and are in the

process of validation. She said that the California-Sacramento collection system manual has been used for guidance in the development of the exams along with the ABC's "Need-to-Know Criteria".

David Pedigo asked the MSD representatives how many collection system operators will be certified at MSD. David Roth said as many as possible. He said right now they have 36 and staffing may have to increase. Twenty plants are going to be involved in the collection system. Jerry said that MSD is under a consent decree and the requirements of the decree are being changed along with the systems. Accordingly operators work will quadruple. The challenge for MSD is to find certified people and to get them trained. They are currently working on the necessary manning requirements and the changes will have a huge implication on the need for resources. The restructuring of the training is very valuable. He said he would offer his staff to participate as partners in the development the program.

Andy Ernest asked about MSD's succession planning. He wanted to know if they bring in operators to the collection system certification and then cross train. Jerry said that it was difficult to find operators. They bring in people as basic utility operators and train them, but this is slow. They have also gotten lists of certified operators them to recruit from other wastewater facilities.

Steve Capps asked if there would be grandfathering of collection system operators. Aaron Keatley said that the way the regulations are set up anyone that wants to become a collection system operator will have to test. Steve asked if there is a grace period. The regulations do not require a collection system operator to be in place at a facility until Jan. 1, 2010. The certification program will begin testing at the end of March 2009. There will be at least nine months of opportunity for facilities to get at lease one operator certified. He also explained that anytime there is a testing event, whether a drinking water class or wastewater class, the program allows for any type of exam to be offered. Aaron said that there are approximately 20 testing events offered. The KWWOA conference in March will be the first time the collection system test is offered.

There was a question about the requirements of collection system operators at a facility. The regulations state that the classification of a facility that a collection system discharges to will determine the classification of the collection system. The classification of the collection system will determine what level of operator certification is required.

Jerry Ferguson also asked about the differences between state requirements for certification and reciprocity. He said part of the challenge in finding a certified operator is the difference in standards between states. He asked how these standards can be reviewed to make them more aligned. Aaron explained that there isn't a national standard for wastewater certification. Kentucky bases their exams and training to be as consistent with the ABC criteria, to the extent possible. Kentucky does have a process currently that allows reciprocity from other states. There are certain limits about how that can be done which are set by regulation. The proposed regulations have revised the limits which will broaden the number of states that we can offer reciprocity to. The fee associated with reciprocity will increase.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the January 20, 2008 minutes was entered by Dave Pedigo. Andy Ernest seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Old Business

A. Kentucky Rural Water req. 1055-08 requested the board reevaluate the course for the approval of two additional hours of non-process. Julia had discussed these courses with Gary Larimore, KRWA and explained that the board had approved these classes in previous requests. Dennis Gumbert made a motion to approve two additional hours for the Watershed Management session and the Asset Management Program. That will bring the total of approved hours to 5 non-process hours. Suzy Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. New Business

- A. Training Application Reviews – Addendum 1
- B. Exam Requests – Addendum 2
- C. A motion to release today's training actions was made by Larry Grubbs and was seconded by Dave Pedigo. The motion carried.

VI. Communications and Announcements

Lisa Butler distributed the January 2009 financial report for the wastewater account.

Mr. Keatley also updated the board members on the status of the pending regulation revisions.

VII. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

VIII. Adjournment

Andrew Ernest entered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Randy Bingham seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Training Requests

Request #	Date Received	On time event	Requested By	Course Title	Hours Requested	Date of Course	1st	2nd	Motion passed	Comments	Process Hours Approved	Non-Process Hours Approved	TCH Event ID#
1064	1/13/2009	Yes	Louisville Water Co.	Survey Leveling - Project Plan Elevation Control	2	12/19/08	DG	RB	X		0	2	6460
1070	1/23/2009	Yes	ERA	DMR -QA Study Program and Laboratory Requirements	12	3/1/09	DG	LG	X	Timed agenda only shows 5.25		5.25	6477
1072	1/26/2009	No	Alloway	Types, Use & Cleanliness of Laboratory Glassware & Pipettes	1	TBA	LG	GE	X	on-line class	1		6479
1073	1/26/2009	No	Alloway	Low Level Mercury Sampling	3	TBA	LB	SB	X	on-line class	3		6480
1074	1/26/2009	No	Alloway	An Overview to QA/QC and Writing the QA Manual		TBA	AE	GE	X	on-line class		3	6481
1075	1/26/2009	Yes	Kentucky League of Cities	KMESHA09	14	3/4/09 - 3/6/09	RB	GE	X			14	6482
1079	2/9/2009	Yes	Ky. Rural Water Assoc.	Process Control and Treatment Techniques	12	3/10/09 - 3/11/09	DP	AE			9	3	P 6486; NP 6487
1082	2/6/2009	No	Winchester Municipal Utilities	Basic Work Zone and Flagger Qualification Course	4	1/21/09 and 2/18/09	RB	LG	X			4	6490
1083	2/6/2009	Yes	NOWRA - National Onsite Wastewater System	NORWA 18th Annual Convention	17.75	4/6/09 - 4/9/09	SB	DP	X			17.75	6491
1086	2/12/2009	No	MSD of Louisville	Laboratory Information Management System Training	1	TBA	SB	LG	X		1		6493
1087	2/12/2009	No	TEEX - Texas Engineering Extension Service	Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities - MGT 343	13	TBA	DP	LG	X			13	6494
1088	2/12/2009	No	Henry P. Thompson Co.	Plant Maintenance Seminar	6	4/1/09	GE	RB	X		6		6495
1090	2/12/2009	No	Sanitation District #1	Permit Required Confined Space & Rescue Procedures	6	5/1/09	GE	LG	X			6	6496

Request #	Date Received	On time event	Requested By	Course Title	Hours Requested	Date of Course	1st	2nd	Motion passed	Comments	Process Hours Approved	Non-Process Hours Approved	TCH Event ID#
1091	2/12/2009	No	Sanitation District #1	Emergency Action Plan & Fire Extinguisher Training	2	Oct. 2009	GE	LG	X			2	6497
1092	2/12/2009	No	Sanitation District #1	Traffic Control/Flagger Training (MUTCD Standards)	6	Feb. 2009	GE	DP	X			6	6498
1093	2/12/2009	No	Sanitation District #1	Crane, Hoist and Rigging	4	TBA	AE	GE	X			3.75	6499
1094	2/12/2009	No	Sanitation District #1	DOT Commercial Drivers License & Forklift Training	6	TBA	GE	DP	X			6	6500
1095	2/12/2009	No	Sanitation District #1	First Aid/CPR Training	7	1/12/09 - 1/28/09	GE	RB	X			7	6501
1096	2/13/2009	No	Central Ky Chapter of KWWOA	Sodium Hypo for Water & Wastewater	1	1/21/09				returned no timed agenda			
1097	2/13/2009	No	Central Ky Chapter of KWWOA	Pump Overview for Water & Wastewater	1	1/21/09				returned no timed agenda			
1098	2/13/2009	No	Central Ky Chapter of KWWOA	Understanding SCADA	1	1/21/09				returned no timed agenda			

Exam Requests

Request #	Name	AI #	Date Received by DCA	Application Type	If Reciprocity State & Current Certification	Status: Approved, Conditional Approval, Denied)	Comments	1st	2nd	Motion Carried
55-09	Charlene C. Mann	29183	2/10/2009	IV		Approved		DG	DP	X
56-09	Killis Sinkhorn	29287	2/10/2009	IV		Approved		DG	SB	X
57-09	Jerry D. Perkins	32223	2/17/2009	IV		Denied	cannot test until after May 2009, L Grubbs abstained	AE	RB	X